

Tasking Memorandum No. 00- 234

Memorandum For Cdrs, DCMDs, DCMA CMOs

Subject: General Accounting Office (GAO) Request for Assistance (TASKING)

Date: May 31, 2000

Suspense Date: June 30, 2000

Target Audience: All DCMA technical personnel and those supervising technical personnel.

Requirements: GAO auditors recently requested our help identifying instances in which two or more National Stock Numbers (NSNs) have been assigned to an identical manufacturer's part. This condition might occur when (1) identical parts are provided to two or more DoD components, (2) identical parts are provided by two or more separate sections of the same company, or (3) prime contractors and subcontractors have identical parts but are assigned different NSNs.

Although DCMA has no responsibility to preclude this situation, some of you may have observed this condition. Duplicate NSNs in the supply system can have an ill effect on DoD's readiness and increase the cost of operations. Examples of the ill effects include additional work for inventory management and contracting personnel; higher unit prices for purchased material; and difficulties in recognizing parts that are interchangeable or substitutable.

Although not the primary focus of their review, the GAO auditors are also interested in identifying identical parts that have more than one NSN because of differences in the requirements for shipping and packaging; appearance, such as color; inspection; and precision.

If, in the course of your normal duties, you become aware of identical parts that have more than one NSN, please forward this information to the GAO audit team: Marc Schwartz, (202) 5 12-8598, e-mail schwartzm.nsiad@gao.gov or David Epstein, (202) 5 12-4606, epsteind.nsiad@gao.gov. The fax number for both is (202) 5 12-2501. All DCMA Offices should also be aware that GAO auditors will be contacting selected DCMA offices for brief discussions of this issue, and/or asking DCMA personnel to arrange meetings with contractor management. DCMA assistance should be provided to the GAO auditors. Given that parts management is a component of the common basic CAS code in PLAS, any time spent on this effort should be charged to PLAS Code 199. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Points of Contact for Further Information:

Dick Kane, DCMA-OCT

E-mail: rkane@dcmchq.dla.mil

Phone: DSN 427-2387 or (703) 767-2387

Signature:



ROBERT W. SCHMITT

Acting Executive Director

Contract Management Operations